(b) whether any amendments have been or are being made to prevent use of arms to ensure free and fair elections?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I. D. SWAMI): (a) and (b) The Election Commission of India issues instructions from time to time to the State Governments for putting restrictions on possession of arms during the period commencing with the date of announcement of election till the completion of the elections. These instructions have been recently further modified in the light of observations of the Supreme Court of India in C.A. No. 4298 of 1994, providing that prohibitory orders may be passed by the District Magistrate under section 144 of the Code of Criminal Procedure where he considers it necessary so to do.

Modernisation of State police forces

3394. SHRI LAJPAT RAI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) how much funds have been spent on modernisation of State police forces by the Central Government during the last five years;

(b) the details of comparative funds spent in Punjab; and

(c) how much funds are required to being the State Police Forces to the level of modern technology and in what manner Government propose to provide the same during the next five years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I. D. SWAMI): (a) A sum of Rs.264.50 crores was released to the State Governments under the Scheme for Modernisation of State Police Forces during the last five years, i.e. from 1995-96 to 1999-2000. Out of this, an amount of Rs. 538.60 lakhs was released to the State Government of Punjab.

(b) The Central Government is also implementing with effect from the financial year 1997-98, a special scheme for Modernisation of State Police Forces in the North-East under which arms and ammunition, vehicle and communication and other equipment are provided in kind. The expenditure incurred under this Scheme during 1997-98, to 1998-99 and 1999-2000 was Rs. 35.63 crores, Rs. 12.48 crores and Rs. 50.87 crores respectively.

It may be pointed out that the Finance Commission has also been making allocations in favour of the State Government for improving their policing infrastructure.

(c) According to an assessment, a sum of Rs. 26,622 crores would be required for improving the standard of policing in the country. This includes a sum of Rs. 19,825 crores for housing.

Recommendations of Parliamentary Committee on Official Language

†3395. SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have accepted the recommendations of the Parliamentary Committee on Official Language to the effect that separate cadres should be established for officers and employees of translation related posts in the subordinate offices so that they may get appropriate promotional opportunities; and

(b) if so, the action taken so far to implement the said recommendations and the future plans in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I. D. SWAMI): (a) Govt. has accepted the recommendations of the Parliamentary Committee on Official language, with the amendment that wherever it is possible, cadre of service for the employees entrusted with the translation work in subordinate offices should be constituted and where it is not possible alternative arrangements for their promotion should be made.

(b) This recommendation of the Parliamentary Committee on Official Language was circulated by the Deptt. of Official Language on 30th December, 1988, in the form of a resolution. Directions on this subject were issued to all the Ministries / Departments by the Deptt. of Official Language, vide its O.M. dated 13th Nov., 1990.

In view of the above, action in this regard is required to be taken by the concerned Ministries/Departments. For the compliance of these directions various Ministries/Departments have been reminded by the Deptt. of Official Language from time to time.

Training to persons engaged in translation work

†3396. SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any scheme for imparting intensive training to the persons engaged in translation work in various offices so that they may perform their duty efficiently;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.